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June 17, 2005

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## Virginia Launches Online Animal Record Reporting System

Richmond, Virginia

[http://vipnet.org/vdacs\\_ar/cgi-bin/forms.cgi](http://vipnet.org/vdacs_ar/cgi-bin/forms.cgi)

J. Carlton Courter, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), has announced the launch of an Online Animal Record Reporting System. This new tool enables Virginia animal organizations to complete annual tracking reports via the internet. The service also includes a public search component that helps citizens find information submitted in the reports.

Virginia animal shelters, pounds and rescue agencies are required by law to maintain accurate records of received and released companion animals. This information is submitted annually to the Office of the State Veterinarian, under the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Animal Record Summary Report was established in 1999 in order to provide a mechanism for tracking animals from over 200 Commonwealth groups and facilities.

Organizations have expressed excitement about the service and appreciate the efforts made by the Office of the State Veterinarian to simplify the annual reporting process. The time saved by using an online system can now be focused on helping more Virginia animals.

To access the online service, animal welfare organizations are mailed a PIN code to login. Next, report preparers can enter the required annual received and released activity information for each animal species handled by their organization. There are no fees for using the online service, giving filers a convenient and cost effective alternative to mailing their reports.

In noting the conveniences of the new online service, Courter stated, "Virginia has many shelters, pounds and rescue groups that must file Animal Record Reports yearly. We are excited to offer these organizations an automated solution that will make the reporting process much easier and more efficient."

(MORE)

The Office of the State Veterinarian collaborated with Virginia.gov to develop this service. In addition to the reporting system, the service also includes a public online search of the submitted report information ([http://www.vipnet.org/vdacs\\_ar/cgi-bin/Vdacs\\_search.cgi](http://www.vipnet.org/vdacs_ar/cgi-bin/Vdacs_search.cgi)). By using the search, citizens can quickly and easily learn more about the dogs, cats, horses and other animal species reported through the service. For example, in 2004, over 25,000 animals were reunited with their owners.

#### **About the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)**

VDACS is committed to promoting the economic growth and development of Virginia agriculture, encouraging environmental stewardship and providing consumer protection.

#### **About Virginia.gov**

Virginia.gov is a managed service of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA), the Commonwealth's recently consolidated technology and solutions provider. Virginia.gov manages the official Virginia state web portal, [www.virginia.gov](http://www.virginia.gov) and assists government entities with providing information and services via the internet.

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